

CLAIMS:

1. A system for improving an output of a transducer signal comprising:
at least one transducer;
a beamformer;
at least one chosen, fixed input beam;
an algorithmic block producing a desired resulting output beam having a narrowed on-axis beamwidth; and
an output signal comprising the desired resulting output beam having a narrowed beamwidth.
2. The system of claim 1 further comprising multiple chosen, fixed input beams, wherein the algorithmic block produces a plurality of desired output beams, and wherein the output signal comprises a plurality of desired output beams having a desired beamwidth.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the transducer is a microphone which simultaneously receives multiple, acoustic signals which can be spatially represented as beampatterns.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein the system includes a plurality of transducers.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the transducer is selected from among the group of a microphones, reciprocal transducers, hydrophones, or geophones.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the narrowed on-axis beamwidth of a desired resulting beam is produced by superpositioning a desired main beam with a beam steered at an angle from the axis of the desired main beam.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the algorithmic block produces narrowed on-axis beamwidths for multiple desired main beams, and wherein the algorithmic block sums the beamformer outputs for the multiple desired resulting beams, and wherein the output signal comprises the beamformer outputs for the multiple desired resulting narrowed beams.

8. The system of claim 1 further comprising a microprocessor, and wherein the microprocessor includes the algorithmic block.

9. The system of claim 1 wherein the algorithmic block comprises:
computer executable instructions; and
a medium for having stored therein the computer executable instructions.

10. The system of claim 1 further including multiple sound paths to the transducer, wherein the multiple sound paths create multiple signals corresponding to the multiple sound paths, and wherein the multiple sound paths create a phase shift in the multiple signals.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the multiple sound paths have varying resonators for attenuation and creating the phase shift.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein the multiple sound paths have differing lengths and include insulation for attenuation and creating the phase shift.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein the multiple sound paths have varying cross-sections for attenuation and creating the phase shift.

14. A method for narrowing the desired pickup of a desired signal comprising the steps of:

determining a location on a spatial representation of a desired main beam containing the desired signal; and

and narrowing the width of the desired beam of the desired signal.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of determining a location is empirically performed and is fixed.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of determining a location is performed using mathematical analysis.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the mathematical analysis is multidimensional Fourier transforms.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the desired signal is an analog acoustic signal, and wherein the method further includes the steps of:

receiving an input signal by a transducer;

forming beams from said input signal; and

outputting an output signal.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of narrowing the width of the desired beam includes:

producing a cancellation beam;

steering the central axis of the cancellation beam with or by phase shifts specified by the desired resulting beamwidth of the narrowed desired beam; and

subtracting the cancellation beam from the desired main beam via superpositioning.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said narrowing the beamwidth includes:
 producing a second cancellation beam;
 steering the central axis of the second cancellation beam to a second angle
 specified by the desired resulting beamwidth of the desired resulting beam; and
 subtracting the second cancellation beam from the desired main beam via
 superpositioning.

21. The method of claim 14 wherein the method is simultaneously performed
 on multiple desired main beams to produce multiple improved on-axis signal pickups.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the method further includes the step of
 summing the narrowed multiple desired main beams.

23. The method of claim 14 wherein the step of narrowing the beamwidth is
 performed by a microprocessor.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the microprocessor includes computer
 executable instructions and a medium for reading said executable steps.

25. A non-continuously adaptive method for improving the on-axis pickup of
 a desired input signal comprising the steps of:

determining location on a spatial representation of a desired main beam of the
 desired input signal;

determining a desired resulting beamwidth of a desired resulting beam;

narrowing the beamwidth of the desired main beam by removing an area of the
 spatial representation of the desired main beam;

producing a desired resulting output beam; and

producing an output signal from the desired resulting output beam.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of determining a desired resulting beamwidth is empirically performed.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of determining a desired resulting beamwidth is mathematically performed.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of determining a desired resulting beamwidth is performed using Fourier transforms.

29. The method of claim 25 wherein said step of narrowing the beamwidth includes:

producing a cancellation beam; and

steering the central axis of the cancellation beam a phase specified by the pre-determined desired resulting beamwidth of the desired resulting output beam; and subtracting the cancellation beam from the desired main beam via superpositioning.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of narrowing the beamwidth includes:

producing multiple cancellation beams wherein each cancellation beam overlaps the desired main beam;

steering the central axis of the multiple cancellation beams a phase specified by the desired resulting beamwidth of the desired resulting output beam;

and subtracting the multiple cancellation beams from the desired main beam via superpositioning.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the method simultaneously improves multiple, desired main beams and simultaneously produces multiple desired resulting output beams.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the output signal comprises each of the multiple resulting desired output beams.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein the multiple desired resulting output beams are produced from multiple desired input signals.

34. The method of claim 29 wherein the method further includes the steps of:
receiving said desired input signal by a transducer;
forming beams from said desired input signal prior to said producing a cancellation beam; and

outputting said output signal.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the method further includes the step of converting said desired input signal from an analog signal to a digital signal.

36. The method of claim 25 wherein the step of narrowing the beamwidth is performed by a microprocessor.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the microprocessor includes computer executable instructions and a medium for reading said executable steps.

38. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

locating a spatial representation of a desired main beam of a desired input signal;
producing a cancellation beam;
steering the central axis of the cancellation beam a phase specified by the desired resulting beamwidth of the narrowed desired beam; and
subtracting the cancellation beam from the desired main beam via superpositioning.

39. The computer readable medium of claim 38 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

producing multiple cancellation beams;

steering the central axis of the multiple cancellation beams a phase specified by the desired resulting beamwidth of the desired resulting beam; and

subtracting the multiple cancellation beams from the desired main beam via superpositioning.

40. The computer readable medium of claim 38 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving said signal by a transducer;

converting said signal from an analog signal to a digital signal;

forming beams from said signal; and

outputting said signal.